



Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

Tony Evers, Governor | Mary M. Kolar, Secretary

August 4, 2020

Dear Union Grove Community:

Over the past several months we have adapted to an everchanging environment as COVID-19 has spread across this country. Just yesterday, there were 404 new COVID-19 cases in Wisconsin, and it was reported that every region of our state is seeing high COVID-19 spread.

Since March, we have observed strong infection control procedures and protocols designed to keep our Members healthy. Adherence to these procedures and protocols helped keep us in a very good place. Every Member has been tested for COVID-19 over the past several months and until now, every Member has tested negative.

Unfortunately, I must report that we have had **two residents test positive for coronavirus**. Both were symptomatic and we initiated the testing. Their family members have been notified by phone. We also have had two staff self-report a positive test taken in the community due to feeling symptomatic. These individuals will now quarantine for 14 days before being allowed back to work.

The following steps are being taken on campus, due to the Members' positive test results:

- The Members reside in private rooms and will be quarantined there.
- A very limited number of staff will work with the Member. These staff have been trained in infectious disease control and will be wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including N95 masks and face shields.
- Care will be coordinated with the Members' primary care physician.
- Staff will follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Health Services regarding contact tracing, additional testing, and quarantining others, as necessary.
- All Members and campus staff will be immediately re-tested for COVID-19.

It is with a heavy heart that I share this news. Our staff are working so hard to care for the veterans and others who live with us in a very challenging and stressful situation. For five long months, we have successfully beat the odds and through our diligence and steadfast effort we have kept this disease out of our Home. Now our mission changes and we will work even harder to prevent its spread.

It is particularly important now that you continue to follow the rules for visitation and dropping off items for the Members. All supplies/gifts should be brought to the Boland Hall vestibule, not Gates Hall. We love window visits but please do not remove screens, or lean into or touch the screens, as social distancing is critical in preventing the spread of exhaled droplets. Also, our Members love being outside but if you happen to see them in the courtyard, please do not approach them. Please let them enjoy their outside time safely by following the restrictions.

Finally, please, for those who have served our country and those who support them, stay home whenever you can, wear a mask when you are out, and try to stay at least six feet away from other people. We are in this for the duration and your actions will help us win the battle against the virus.

If you have any questions, I am happy to address them.

Diane Lynch, Homes Division Administrator

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